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"We must open wider the doors of opportunity....
for the good of our country and all our people"
President Eisenhower

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Committee for RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Under Secretary, Department of the Interior

Under Secretary, Department of Agriculture (Chairman)

Under Secretary, Department of Commerce

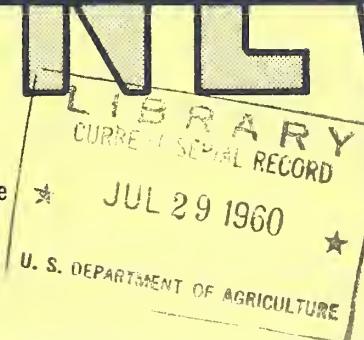
Under Secretary, Department of Labor

Under Secretary, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare

Administrator, Small Business Administration

Member, Council of Economic Advisers

NEWS



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Extension Service officials representing some 45 States will meet June 22 to 25 at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee to review Extension's part in the Rural Development Program and work out improved methods of supporting the program in States and localities. The meeting is termed an "in-service Extension training conference" by Dr. Ernest J. Nesius, Kentucky's Assistant Director of Extension who heads the conference planning group.

The meeting is an outgrowth of recent recommendations by Extension Service directors that educational techniques worked out in RD areas be utilized in all States to help "lagging" rural communities develop their resources. More than 100 Extension officials are expected to attend the Memphis meeting, including 19 directors, 9 associate directors, and 9 assistant directors.

COUNTIES ADDED TO State RD Committees in Mississippi, Alabama, and
PROGRAM IN THREE STATES Florida have added a total of 10 counties to the program in those States, bringing the national total to 205. This includes counties participating in broader area development programs, such as those in Kentucky and Texas.

In Florida the State Committee, meeting April 15, added Lafayette and Jefferson Counties. Both are located in the northern part of the State.

Alabama's Committee, meeting April 26, designated Autauga, Bibb, Coosa, and Elmore Counties, which are contiguous with Chilton County, one of the State's original RD counties. The five counties, it is planned, will form an area where program leaders can promote projects, such as farm marketing, which cross county lines.

Mississippi has added Lawrence, Yazoo, Simpson, and Calhoun Counties, for a total of nine now designated for the program in that State.

NATIONAL PRESS TURNS In recent weeks some of the country's leading newspapers and magazines have turned the national spotlight on Rural
SPOTLIGHT ON PROGRAM Development.

This is one of a series of periodic reports on Rural Development Program activities of business, farm, civic, government and other community leadership working together. If you have information that might be of interest to those participating in the program or you wish to receive this Newsletter, address communications to the Editor, Rural Development Program News, Office of Information, Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

In a front page story Sunday, May 8, New York Times Washington correspondent Bill Blair reports on a visit he made to Indiana's Perry County. The county, he observes, is "part of a vast rural laboratory in the development of human resources and the opening of new jobs and other opportunities off or on the farm." Blair calls the Rural Development Program an educational rather than a direct aid program but points out that "all kinds of resources are available at Federal and State levels." These include loans for farm and business improvement through the Farmers Home Administration and Small Business Administration, he writes.

The Appalachian Mountain farming region is "gripped in a climactic struggle" to improve opportunities for its thousands of low income families, reports the Saturday Evening Post for June 4 in a full-length feature article by Jerome Ellison. The Rural Development Program is widely recognized as an important element in the long-term development of this region, Ellison reports.

In preparing the article, he visited several Indiana and eastern Kentucky counties participating in the program, met with steering committees, and talked Rural Development with leading townspeople and families on small farms.

Recent issues of the Farm Journal also include features describing some of the work going forward in RD counties. "How to Make Good on A Hill Farm" is the title of an article in the Journal's eastern edition for June. It describes how farm agencies working together helped a small farmer get on his feet in Fayette County, Pennsylvania. In the magazine's March issue, rural life editor Dick Davids tells about the progress being made in Choctaw County, Oklahoma to build up industries and provide jobs for underemployed farm people.

All in all, these articles are impressive evidence of the interest throughout the nation in the RD approach to rural area problems.

KELLOGG AND UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY JOIN IN DEVELOPMENT OF LOW INCOME REGION A far-reaching program of area development in Eastern Kentucky, which could influence the type of government services and other activities in low income rural counties throughout the nation, has been approved by the University of Kentucky and the Kellogg Foundation.

The program will be discussed July 20 by Dr. Frank G. Dickey, University of Kentucky president and his staff in a meeting with top Federal officials including the following members of the Committee for Rural Development Program: Under Secretaries Elmer F. Bennett (Interior), True D. Morse (Agriculture) and Bertha S. Adkins (Health, Education, and Welfare); Phillip McCallum, Administrator of the Small Business Administration; Dr. Karl Brandt, Member of the President's Committee of Economic Advisers. Irving I. Kramer, Executive Secretary, Committee to Coordinate Federal Urban Area Assistance Programs, will also attend the meeting.

Financed by the University of Kentucky and the Kellogg Foundation, the proposed program will include 30 eastern counties in the State. Plans call for a "package of technical and organizational skills" designed especially to develop area resources and improve local institutions. Specialists in community improvement, career and youth guidance, farming and conservation, and marketing and other fields will spearhead the work. A seven-year program is planned, with a budget of nearly \$2.5 million.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN ACTION*

Washington: Hard work on the part of Rural Development Program committee members in Stevens County has finally produced a much-needed junior college, providing both academic and vocational subjects, which will improve job skills throughout the area.

Indiana: To help local committees in project planning, this State's Rural Development Program Committee is issuing a series of "guides for your area's development." Each guide will take up a different phase of the program -- tourism, land use, industry, etc.

Tennessee: Several of the State's smaller cities have started programs of industrial training, including Clarksville, where a program of electronics and tool design is scheduled to begin July 1 financed in part by Federal National Defense Education funds.

Louisiana: An important part of the Rural Development Program in Avoyelles Parish is organized community improvement, centering on farming, home improvement, health, and youth activities. Communities compete with each other in yearly community improvement contests.

Minnesota: More than 75 municipalities in the State have backed up their planning commissions with local funds; and about ten of these municipalities have now completed general plans for future community growth and progress.

Nebraska: Some interesting projects brought a successful completion by Lincoln County's RD committee are a new co-op elevator, establishment of several fire protection districts, local road improvement, and studies of county-wide resources. The committee is also putting a lot of effort into promoting the Great Plains Program, to improve land use and conservation in this RD county.

Arkansas: "We hope through our efforts to have every tree that's cut in Phillips County manufactured in the county," says Lawson Anderson, Chairman of the RD Forestry Committee, which is waging a long-term campaign to turn forest resources into jobs and income.

Nevada: Lincoln County's up-and-coming Rural Development Program is beginning to pay off -- construction has started on a small plant which will employ some 75 workers, one of several new developments in the county.

*Based on reports of rural development throughout the Nation, including pilot counties and others.

PROGRAM BRIEFS

Representatives of six States in the Appalachian Mountain region agreed May 20 to set up an interim committee which will lay the groundwork for a cooperative interstate program of economic development in the region. Maryland's Governor J. Millard Tawes in opening the May 20 meeting observed that "the Appalachian region is an economic as well as a topographical entity and has become our nation's number one chronic economic problem." Governors Bert Combs of Kentucky and Cecil Underwood of West Virginia attended the conference, along with representatives of New York, North Carolina, and Virginia. It was held in Annapolis, Maryland.

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Some 14,000 area development organizations in the U. S. -- regional, state, local government, and private -- employed more than 10,000 persons and spent at least \$220 million in 1957, according to a study released late in April by the Committee for Economic Development. A big factor in the success of these organizations, says the CED report, is cooperation of other agencies.

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Each of the nine regional offices of the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare has set up committees to work with the Rural Development Program, the Department reports. Among projects in RD areas which personnel of the regional offices actively support are campaigns to qualify older farm people for social security and improvement of health facilities.

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Under Secretary of the Interior Elmer F. Bennett has urged Bureau chiefs in his Department to employ as many local people as possible in Rural Development Program counties. Mr. Bennett said he hopes to better the Interior Department's 1959 record, when 145 persons obtained jobs on the Department's projects during the spring and summer season.

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The Kellogg Foundation has announced a grant of \$759,800 to North Carolina State College to tackle the basic problems of Southern agriculture. This supplements the adjustment program at Iowa State University which is using Kellogg Foundation funds. North Carolina's Dean of Agriculture D. W. Colvard states the program "should not only affect agriculture but the region's entire economy."

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Cities and towns of less than 50,000 people located outside standard metropolitan areas now furnish about one-fourth of the jobs in manufacturing industries, according to the U. S. Commerce Department's report Metropolitan Area and City Size Patterns of Manufacturing Industries (Obtainable at 50 cents a copy from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.)